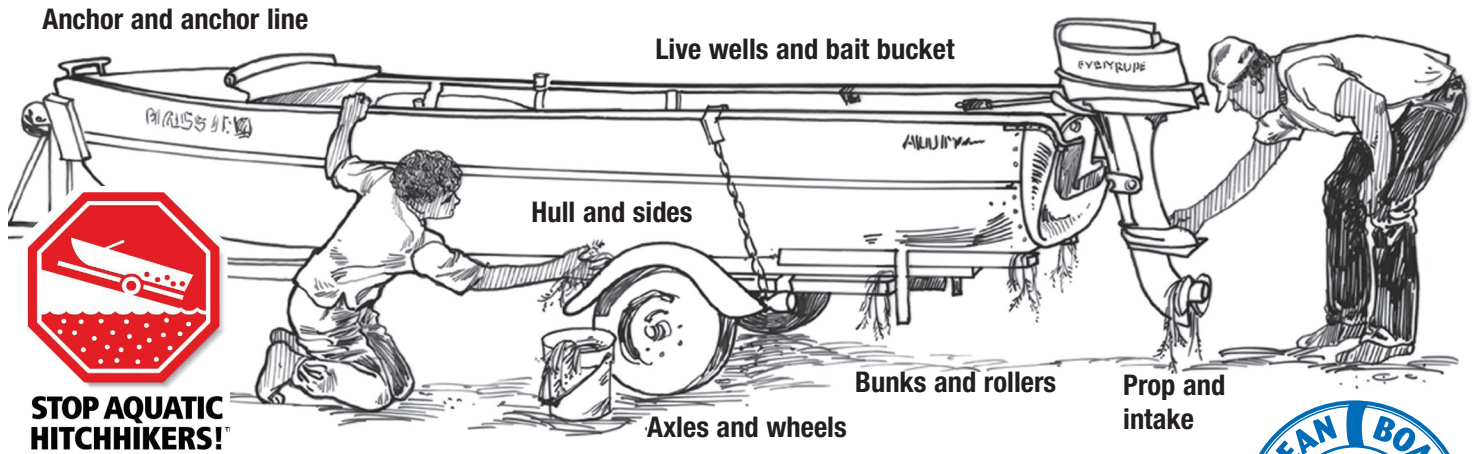


Stop aquatic hitchhikers...

Clean your boat and equipment to prevent the spread of invasive species!



In Wisconsin it's the law*... failure to follow these steps can lead to fines up to \$2000.

Aquatic invasive plants and animals such as Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, rusty crayfish, and zebra mussels are easily transported by boats and equipment as boaters travel from one lake to another. The fish disease Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is easily spread when fish are transported from one waterbody to another.

It is important for all of us to follow these preventative steps for all water activities, not just boating and fishing. Other activities include:

- Using personal watercraft
- Shore and fly-fishing
- Sailing
- Scuba diving
- Waterfowl hunting

Be diligent! Even small fragments, roots or seeds transported by your boat can grow and infest another lake.

Before you leave a body of water:

- **Inspect and remove** aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boats, trailers, and equipment before launching and before leaving the water access.
- **Drain all water** from boat, motor, bilge, live wells, bait buckets and other containers and equipment before leaving the water access.
- **Ice your catch.** Never move plants or live fish away from a waterbody.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash, not in the water or on land.
- **Buy** minnows from a Wisconsin licensed bait dealer.

Additional steps

- Spray, rinse, or dry your boat and equipment to remove or kill species not visible. Spray/rinse with hot or high pressure water OR dry your boat for 5 days before entering another lake or river.
- Disinfect boats and equipment to kill species and fish diseases using a mixture of two tablespoons of household bleach to one gallon of water.

* **State of Wisconsin: Section 30.715 WI Act 16** prohibits launching a boat or placing a boat or trailer in navigable waters if it has aquatic plants or animals attached.

* **Polk County Ordinance 29-11:** prohibits launching or operating on a public roadway any boat, boat trailer, or hunting, trapping, fishing, or boating equipment, including canoes, lines, anchors, nets, decoys, and waders if aquatic plants or invasive animals are attached.



Polk County Sheriff
715-485-8300
(non emergency)

EMERGENCY DIAL 911